



**Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona**

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, February 11, 2005

For Information Contact Public Affairs

SANDY RAYNOR

Telephone: (602) 514-7625

Cell: (602) 525-2681

**TRIO INDICTED FOR SMUGGLING ILLEGAL ALIENS;
ONE FOR ASSAULTING A FEDERAL OFFICER**

TUCSON, Ariz. -- A federal grand jury here returned an eight-count indictment on February 9, 2005 against Alfredo Cruz-Burrue, age 24; Karen Ariana Moreno-Silva, age 20, and Jose Esteban Nunez-Ortega, age 20, all of Mexico. Counts one through seven of the federal indictment charges all three defendants with violating Title 8, U.S. Code, Sections 1324(a)(1)(A)(v)(I), 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii), 1324(a)(1)(B)(i), 1324(a)(1)(B)(iii), and 1324(a)(2)(B)(ii). Count one of the indictment alleges that beginning on an unknown date and continuing to approximately January 16, 2005, all three defendants agreed together to transport illegal aliens within the U.S. for private financial gain. Counts two through four of the indictment allege that all three defendants brought certain illegal aliens into the U.S. for private financial gain. Counts five through seven allege that all three defendants transported certain illegal aliens within the U.S. for private financial gain and while transporting the aliens, placed their lives jeopardy.

Count eight of the federal indictment further charges Cruz-Burrue with assaulting a federal officer with a deadly weapon in violation of Title 18, U.S. Code, Sections 111(a)(1), 111(b), and 1114. All three defendants are in federal custody pending trial.

A conviction for conspiracy to transport illegal aliens for private financial gain, bringing in illegal aliens for private financial gain, and transporting illegal aliens for private financial gain and placing their lives in jeopardy carries a maximum penalty of ten years in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both. A conviction for assault on a federal officer with a deadly weapon carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The prosecution is being handled by Daniel J. Santander, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-05-230-TUC
RELEASE NUMBER: 2005-022

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